Death in custody

LHC orders murder case against SHO, others

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE, Jan 1: The Lahore High Court has ordered the registration of a case against the SHO of Muridke Sadar, an ASI of the same police station and a traffic sergeant for allegedly torturing a suspect to death.

A petition moved by Syed Anzar Husain Shah of Haripur through Advocate Rana Ijaz Ahmed Khan said his son, Tahir Ali Shah, an employee of the Wah Ordnance Factories, was taken into custody by the Muridke police on August 8, 1998. He was arrested on the complaint of Farrukh Iqbal of Sheikhupura for investigation into an allegedly questionable sale of a car.

During five days of physical remand, the petition alleged, Tahir was mercilessly beaten up by SHO Iftikhar Bajwa, ASI Muhammad Akram and traffic sergeant Ghulam Sikandar Ghumman, a close relative of complainant Farrukh Iqbal.

The detenu was given nothing to eat during the period of remand and when his condition deteriorated, he was shifted from the police station to the Sheikhupura District Jail. His father found him lying unconscious on a stretcher when he went to the jail with a bail order for the release of his son.

When he tried to lodge an FIR, the police refused to entertain his complaint or register a case. Justice Tasadduq Husain Jilani directed the DIG of Lahore on Thursday to ensure that an FIR was registered and that investigations were conducted by a Crimes Branch officer not below the rank of superintendent.